

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

September 4, 2018

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on September 4, 2018, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda, previous meeting minutes and Treasurer Reports were available to the public. Chair Robert Pipech called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. It was announced that the meeting was being recorded for preparing the minutes. Interior cameras were also recording the video.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - here
Pipech - here
Smith - here

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

Mr. Pipech reported that: preliminary reports have the Blytheburn Bridge replacement beginning at the end of September and taking 2-3 months to complete, and:

that the Township is advertising for a Road Worker employee. Dan Centurione is retiring at the end of September. Pipech thanked him for all his hard work during his years here, and wished him well.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Pipech called for public comment, recognizing Attorney Mark McNealis representing Presidential Lands. McNealis introduced his colleague, Tim Connelly, engineer for the Woodberry Manor PRD. McNealis reported that the traffic study was completed and that the developer would abide by its recommendations. McNealis asked that the study be accepted as a condition of the Township's tentative approval and that the Presidential continue to proceed with the process to complete the plans for review, recognizing that no approval is given based on the study. Connelly noted that he would respond to the questions sent to him when his client approved such response. Solicitor Dean concluded that the next step is for the developer to continue to flesh out the plans for review by the Planning Commission. Resident Barbara Miller read and presented a petition demanding improvements to Heslop Road before the PRD secondary access is complete, such petition being part of these minutes. Residents Christina Vinciguerra, Charles Keikuts and Mark Manosky expressed concern about the ability of Heslop to handle the traffic. Pipech clarified that the bridge on Heslop is owned by the County. Pipech explained the need to grow, and Rick Arnold, Vice-Chair, noted that the developer has been proactive, trying to make things right and supporting the community with contributions to the recreation fund for properties sold. Resident Karl Kaminski asked what was wrong with Heslop Road, and Pipech responded that the road may need some improvements, but the secondary access was necessary. Resident Felicia Bierzynski asked for police help for the Blytheburn Fish Derby on October 7 from 10-1, and Sergeant Ehret confirmed their support.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Township Engineer reported that Barletta Materials had presented their change order for additional work on Ice Lakes Drive as desired, and the total bill was being presented for payment, as the project was completed in good order. He noted that no further work has been done at the Ice Lakes Dam, and in response to a question from Resident Martin Wentz, Arnold reported that the project was in the hands of legal counsel and the bonding company, to whom only payments would be made going forward.

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BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to approve the change order from Barletta Materials & Construction, Inc. to perform additional base repair to Ice Lakes Drive under the 2018 Pave Project for a total additional amount of \$57,372.60.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to approve the submission for payment from Barletta Materials & Construction, Inc. for the 2018 Pave Project for a total amount of \$282,605.20, such payment to be made through application for payment through LSA grant C000069429.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on August 7, 2018.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for August, 2018, as presented by Treasurer Jeffrey Beck. Beck reviewed the check register for the General Fund, noting that this was a period where Earning Income receipts grew and expenses were somewhat constrained, allowing a build in cash balances. He noted the expense in the Liquid Fuels Fund, reporting no activity in the Recreation Fund. Beck noted the ending bank balances as of August 31, 2018: General Fund checking, \$152,367.22; General Fund MM, \$134,594.21; EDCIP Fund, \$60,070.39; Liquid Fuels checking, \$288.44; Liquid Fuels MM, \$152,421.24; Recreation checking, \$253.95; Recreation MM, \$2,502.31; for total cash on hand of \$442,427.37. The report was filed.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, and all bills to be paid.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for August, 2018 as presented by Roadmaster Robert Pipech. Pipech reported that the Road Crew was very busy patching potholes whenever weather permitted, and cutting back brush during the rainy days. He noted the receipt of clean fill and millings behind the recycle center. Pipech explained that a grant application would be written for a backhoe, and that the purchase of a larger truck would be required given the growth in the Township. Pipech reported that his plan is to rent milling and broom equipment in the future to improve the performance of the patching process and allow the application of a 1 inch top coat over patched areas.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to accept the Roadmaster's Report as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS: (Cont'd)

Received the Police Report for August, 2018 as presented by Sergeant Ehret, and filed.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Police Report as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to accept the Zoning Report for August, 2018 as presented by Secretary Beck, and filed.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to renew the police "Alert/Care Software Service Agreement" with Metro Technology Services, Inc. for the period 11/1/2018 to 10/31/2019 at a cost of \$1,213.00 (This is only a \$34 increase from last year).

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, seconded by Arnold, to adopt Resolution 2018-14 appointing the Township Secretary to the position of Chief Administrative Officer for the uniformed and non-uniformed pension funds.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, seconded by Smith, to adopt the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Rice Township and the Rice Township Police Department commencing January 1, 2019 and expiring December 31, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Smith thanked Chief Franks for the hard work to reach the agreed contract. Smith noted that it was not easy, but the result is fair to both parties, and also extended his thanks to all the officers. Pipech added his thanks to the other Supervisors for their constructive work to finalize the contract. Arnold noted to Smith that he did the heavy work on the contract.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to approve the Steinbrenner minor subdivision as recommended by the Rice Township Planning Commission.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to approve the extension of time by 90 days for consideration of the proposed major subdivision known as Jennifer's Way as requested by Milnes Engineering.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS: (Cont'd)

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to request and authorize PPL to install a High Pressure Sodium street lamp at the intersection of Church Road and Henry Drive.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Arnold asked Beck to explain the motion. Beck reported that PPL charges a distribution fee for LED lamps that exceeds the energy cost savings of an LED over the High Pressure Sodium lamp, thereby increasing the cost to the taxpayer.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to approve Robert Pipech and the Secretary/Treasurer attending the Luzerne County Boroughs & Township Association dinner meeting on September 27, 2018 and to pay the \$10.00 fee for each.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, seconded by Arnold, to authorize the Township Secretary to attend two PSATS webinars, Tiny Homes on September 12th and Preparing Fee Schedules on October 31, at a cost of \$30.00 each.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech reported the following:

that budget preparation will begin in October. Departments were asked to submit their budgetary needs for 2019;

that the Pension Plans' Minimum Municipal Obligation Reports will be completed and filed by September 30, 2018;

that the Township received \$1,276.71 from the Pennsylvania Gaming Commission for its payment in lieu of taxes for 2018;

that the County is providing used tire drop-off events at Drums Elementary on October 6th and Hanover Area Junior/Senior High on October 13th. Details can be found on the table in the lobby;

and that leaf drop off will begin on Monday, October 15th and conclude on Friday, November 16th. Leaves can be left in the dumpster by the Township Building and must be in paper compostable bags. Branches cut to a length of 3 feet and no more than 1" in diameter may be left. Cameras record the area.

Patrick Irving of the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company presented his report. Pipech added that the Township was working on the DEP application to move the dry hydrant at the Ice Lakes on Nuangola Road. He also asked Irving to look into the problem of insurance companies still referencing the Rice Township Fire Department as the primary company providing fire protection in Rice Township.

Pipech announced that the Planning Commission met on August 22th and draft minutes of that meeting were available.

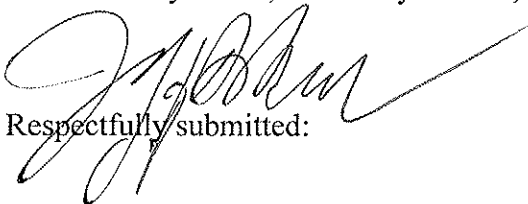
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SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Dean had no report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident Karl Kaminski asked that the trunk of the tree at the corner of Heslop and Nuangola Road be removed. Pipech directed Beck to call PPL to see if they would finish the job. Resident Keikuts requested that the Township contact PPL about trees along Heslop that are on the power lines, such as at 1045 Heslop. Beck added that to the list. Resident Bierzynski explained the Blytheburn Fish Derby to the meeting attendees.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.


Respectfully submitted:

Jeffrey D. Beck
Secretary/Treasurer